

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
July 11th, 2018

Meeting called to order: 7:32 pm.

Commissioners in Attendance: George Caye, Al Larson, Toby Lewis, Ritu Goel, Jeff T., Mike Kelly, Mindy Lewis, Renee Powell, Michael LeBlanc.

Also in Attendance: Ray Favreau, and Andrew Schadt, SWPRD Summer Intern, and Matt Rilet, Town Council Liaison.

Ray welcomed newest member to the commission, Michael LeBlanc and thanked him for stepping up.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made and seconded to approve the June minutes. Passed unanimously.

Public Input: None

Special Reports.

(1) **4th R Program update by Ray:** Town Council officially formed the Child Care Committee who has met numerous times in last 3 weeks. Another meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night. Committee's recommendation will then go to Town Council at their next meeting on July 17. There are a few private entities looking to step up including having the YMCA operate at Temple Beth Hillel and potentially the Avery Street Church in the near future. Ray encouraged Commission to attend Town Council meeting to hear committee recommendation. No magic silver bullet here. Current 4th R staff has 19 vacancies so Shelby is working diligently to recruit and replace staff just to maintain status quo. Maintaining 1:10 supervisory standard is a must along with appropriate square footage is crucial. Will work on wait list to carry over year-to-year, instead of starting over each year. Mike Kelly asked what the PARC role is in this issue. Ray suggested that the PARC hold off on taking a position until after the committee files recommendation to Council. Child Care committee was formed to take a community approach to child care needs and not solely on the shoulders of Parks & Rec. for solutions. Ray asked the commission for their support to the department's decision to cap enrollment for the 4th R and that over-crowding and under-staffing opens the town up to heightened liability and should not be done at this time. Much discussion ensued regarding what PARC should or could do and whether they can receive committee report in advance of Council meeting. Ray stated that protocol does not allow sharing reports intended for Council with others prior to their review. Should anything unusual occur at the Council meeting on the 17th Ray will reach out to Commissioners.

(2) **Master Plan Progress Report:** The rest of the meeting was dedicated to a master plan presentation of progress by Andrew. Drafts of the following Chapters were presented and discussed: Current Facility Inventory (Summary Table and Site Specific), Needs Assessment, Trends & Challenges. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding land acquisition process/procedures and the value of these purchases and the optimized public use of the

property. Ray suggested PARC establish a land acquisition policy as part of their master plan to better control our inventory. We should advocate for and provide a balance of active recreation, passive recreation, conservation/preservation and agriculture. Commission needs to set their own criteria to send to Open Space Task Force. What's the return on investment? What's the impact to the Town (Schools, programs, fire protection, etc.)? Is it a good investment financially? The concept of regionalization was discussed as an upcoming trend/challenge.

- Ray suggested that the PARC meet on August 8th to discuss just the master plan to keep the momentum going with Andrew. Put to a vote and passed unanimously.

Report of Council Liaison: None due to time constraints

Report of the B of E Liaison: None due to time constraints

OSTF: None due to time constraints

Report of Parks and Rec. Dir.: Written document distributed, but ran out of time to discuss.

Meeting adjourned 9:35 pm

Next Meeting: 7:30pm August 8, 2018

Respectfully Submitted

Ray Favreau